

The Democrat.

PUBLISHING COMPANY

and every Friday at

Subscription Price:

Telephone 24

the Live Oak Postoffice as

Gorda Herald was seven-

old on Thursday of last

talented editor. To your

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under the new State admin-

Governor Gilchrist has

to complete it has been

to retreat and "push things"

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the United States senate

and Mr. Burton, of Cleve-

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to care about." We have

quite enough precedents

established by that court to

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amendments so long dreaded by the

and that is as near to repeal as

ever likely to get.

Tampa Tribune is covering itself

special editions adver-

nearly in counties of South

its latest on last Sunday was

A VERDICT TO THANK GOD FOR.

Probably no verdict of deeper significance or that will exert a wider influence was ever rendered in the South than that of the jury in Union City, Tenn., a few days ago which convicted eight night riders of the murder of Capt. Rankin and gave six of them the death penalty and the other two twenty years each in the pen. In all that part of Tennessee and the near-by regions of Kentucky the very foundations of civilization have long been shaken by the increasing crimes of widely organized malefactors claiming to have a grievance, who, grown bold by immunity from punishment resulting from the terrorism they created, went from one form of outrage to another until the culmination came in the peculiarly brutal and cruel murder of Capt. Rankin, a prominent citizen, merely because he wanted to protect his property from their depredations. They went about this murder with the devilish deliberation of savages torturing a captive, and the crime was so atrocious and the criminals so numerous and well-organized that the nation was shocked.

Governor Patterson filled the county with troops and their vigorous work resulted in the arrest of a large batch of the scoundrels. The conviction of eight of them by a jury made up of citizens of the county, after a fair trial in which guilt was fully proved, is a triumph of law over lawlessness of the most formidable character which brings a deep sense of relief to decent people all over West Tennessee.

But the significance of this verdict is by no means limited to Tennessee. It is a rift in the black cloud of crime which, finding its origin in the night-riding iniquity of Tennessee and Kentucky, spread rapidly through several Southern States and is creating most ominous and distressing conditions in large areas of the country districts. Burning property, posting threats, whipping helpless people in their homes, and in some instances torture and murder by vicious, cowardly degenerates armed and banded for the purpose are typical crimes under these new and fearful conditions. Their perpetrators, living amid a weak enforcement of the law and seeing the abortions on justice so frequently resulting from the trial of criminal cases in the court-house, came to despise the law as a thing evidently weak and worthless, and so took it upon themselves to avenge their own wrongs, real or fancied, gratify their grudges against neighbors, coerce them in the disposition of their crops and feed the revengeful passions of their ignorant, primitive natures in any direction their lawless caprice might point. All this presaged the reign of conditions in the South worse than those of the civil war, for then the line was broadly drawn, we knew friend from foe and had an open enemy to fight under the rules of civilized war—not masked assassins riding to their foul work sheltered by darkness and outraging and shooting down their very neighbors to gratify their brutal passions. The dispatches for weeks past have told us of the spread of this night-riding form of crime like a moral pestilence, cropping out in unexpected spots, and like most things evil, rapidly embracing within its scope vicious and ignorant elements already depraved at heart, reckless of the rights of others, and wanting only the prospect of immunity from punishment to join the criminal ranks and inaugurate reigns of terror in every neighborhood infested by them.

A lesson was needed, one too plain, sharp and decisive to be mistaken, and it comes in this verdict from Tennessee which bids all the law-abiding South brace up and be of good cheer, for at last a jury has been found not to be hoodwinked or cajoled by the pleadings of the lawyers or external influences of any kind and that dared to do right in a grave crisis when the very civilization of their State was one of the issues of the trial. The news of that verdict, and its example, too, will spread through all those regions cursed by the lawless spirit of the night-rider, carrying hope to the oppressed and dismay to the oppressor, for a fine instance at the right moment may inspire a whole people and send the elixir of its saving grace through all the currents of their life.

Congratulations to Bro. Jordan, of the Punta Gorda Herald, upon his appointment as State pure food inspector. This will give him an opportunity, maybe, to stroll up this way and let us see what he looks like. The writer of this "ain't niver seed him yit," and yearns to hear him tell one of his justly celebrated fish stories with such modifications as his conscience may exact under the requirements of the new State pure food law.

This is the kind of we pumps enthusiastic life and the Florida tourist traffic "up for the exhilarating coolness that arrived here a few days ago and our palm leaf fans superfluous," brief while means blizzards and arctic discomforts in that part of a country. Under such circumstances those who have the price "light" for the Land of Flowers in carols, and, if they are built right, live in a state of gratitude all the winter cause of their escape from the wastes of snow and slush they left behind them. Some of them we benevolently assimilate and they become permanent citizens to help us in the development of the State; some return home in the spring full of good words for Florida and sure to come back again next winter, and a few enjoy our incomparable climate and other blessings and go back to their thawed-out land in April or May to talk and write of the "natives" down this way as though they were a species of animal they had discovered running wild in the woods, or quite inferior beings to be reckoned with as aborigines and otherwise derided and contemned. Happily, tourists of this kind with an incapacity for intelligent and comprehensive observation that is really marvelous are scarce and getting scarcer, and each succeeding winter shows a better class of Northern tourists to our State—people who come neither to sneer nor to patronize and have eyes enough and brains enough as well to see that there are tens of thousands of "natives" who measure up to the accepted standard of American citizens in any State, and that the uncouth, unkempt, ignorant and shiftless specimens they encounter are the exceptions to the rule and are not the people by whom to judge Florida or Floridians. But let them all come, good, bad and indifferent—bums and fakirs, rogues and rascals of course excepted—for we will never know each other except by the attitudinal actual contact in close business and social relations; and when the prejudices and misconceptions on both sides have been worn away under that process, "yankee" and "cracker" will disappear from our vocabulary as terms of dislike and disparagement and we will all be Floridians of Southern or Northern origin and nobody will care a darn which.

Howard, of the Orlando Reporter-Star, won the first prize of \$25 offered by the Tampa Tribune for the best editorial in a Florida paper on the benefits of a State fair, and Hetherington, of the Lakeland News, captured the second prize of \$10. Both editors are in the nonpareil class and it is not surprising that they won in such a competition. We are curious to know what they will do with such an immense amount of ready cash coming upon them all in a heap with this bewildering suddenness, and in the midst of their joyous agitation while their minds are yet seething with half-formed plans for laying out their wealth to the best advantage, we beg them to remember the noble maxim of the great and good Carnegie that he who dies rich dies disgraced. If we could meet them at the Tampa fair and steer 'em up agin Sir Edward Lambright, Bar't, and others of the nobility in our set down there we would cheerfully undertake to send 'em both home in such a state of financial palsy and decrepitude that if old Andy could see them he would declare with joyous tears in his eyes that he had witnessed his fairest ideal of total poverty following hard upon the benefactions of great wealth and he would adopt it as a model in his own case.

No President of the United States ever shriveled so rapidly in moral stature, and almost visibly to the naked eye, as has Roosevelt in his effort to stain the honor and integrity of Senator Tillman in the matter of the latter's purely personal and private negotiation for a small body of public land in Oregon by strict compliance with the Government law. Roosevelt hates Tillman intensely, and from motives of malignant personal spite he has used his great office to set spies upon the Senator and his private transaction and even ransack his desk by stealth to secure letters with the hope of proving that Tillman had improperly used his public functions to promote his private interests in the land deal. Mr. Tillman's reply to Roosevelt's charges, made in the senate last Monday, was a complete vindication of the integrity of his motives in the land deal and left no shadow of suspicion upon his honor as a senator. But it did leave Theodore Roosevelt in the shameful attitude of a convicted slanderer from motives that would be discredit to the mean little soul of a bar-room bum.

The Democrat has been the first issue of Pensacola's new paper, The Record, J. H. R. and a perusal of its columns shows it to be something decidedly and ly novel in Florida journalism. Record is absolutely in politics and all other questions, be a free lance in the field, in very, guided only by the question of the liquor traffic, has very pronounced views, strict saloon regulation and opposed to prohibition by law. per will also have distinctly features in the way of good local authors, and in a metropolitan and cosmopolitan community like Pensacola a publication so versatile and out of the ordinary has a field in promise and its future looks bright. Mr. Hamilton is an old citizen of Pensacola, an experienced newspaper man and a most agreeable gentleman deeply sincere in his convictions and with the courage to express them, and if he is given the patronage to sustain him in his venture, he will do his part and furnish the people of his city and section with a clean and able and interesting paper, and not the less so because it is "independent in all things and neutral in nothing."

It is popular among a good many politicians and papers in Florida and a certain per cent of the laity to abuse the Times-Union on all occasions, but for all that it is easily our foremost public journal in its entirety and in every department, steadily increasing in excellence and influence as the years go by, and speaking for the State and its progress with more effectiveness and over a larger area both at home and abroad than any other Florida paper does or can. We are glad to learn from a recent issue of the Times-Union that its circulation last year increased, in round numbers, from ten thousand in January to sixteen thousand by the following December. Truly a remarkable showing, especially in a State so thinly settled as Florida. The Tampa Times is entirely right when, in speaking of the Times-Union, it says: "It is not without its faults, but they do not weigh in comparison with its worth, and it is easy to wish it permanent success."

Notice is hereby given, that by virtue of a final decree of foreclosure and sale made and entered in the Circuit Court of the 3rd Judicial Circuit in and for Suwannee county, Florida, said decree dated December 28, 1908, in a certain cause pending in said court wherein T. P. Hurst is complainant and Shelton Williams and Emma Williams are defendants, I will offer for sale to the highest and best bidder for cash, in front of the court house door in Live Oak, Suwannee county, Florida, during the legal hours of sale on the 1st day of February, 1909, the same being a legal sales day, the following described lands situate and being in Suwannee county, Florida, to-wit: The northeast quarter of the northeast quarter of section fourteen (14), township three (3), south range twelve (12), east.

H. E. CARTER, J. P. LAMB, Complainant's Solicitor. Special Master. Jan-1-09

SAVINGS ACCOUNT

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF LIVE OAK

Will pay 4 per cent. on all sums left in its Savings Account. Interest period begins January 1st to 10th for next quarter.

Never before has the Bank been in better position to accommodate its customers, and you are invited to become one of them.

ARDEE, President

S. B. CONNER, Cashier

W. J. HILLMAN, THOS. DOWLING, Vice-Presidents

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